

Soviets see consensus on Mideast

WASHINGTON (R) — A Soviet official said Wednesday he believed there was an international consensus for convening a Middle East peace conference backed by both the United States and the Soviet Union. "You know this question has been discussed for a number of months already," Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said on U.S. television. "But what is new today is that I think the international consensus now has appeared with regard to convening this." He did not elaborate. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes the plan and comments by Petrovsky last week suggested there was still disagreement on terms for Arab-Israeli peace talks under auspices of such a conference. Petrovsky said that the conference should have power to enforce resolutions but the United States and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres favour a conference that could not impose solutions on either Israel or the Arabs. Secretary of State George Shultz has been pressing a peace process that includes a non-binding peace conference.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Israelis capture 4 commandos

BEIRUT (R) — Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) issued a statement warning Israel not to harm four of its fighters captured after a skirmish early Wednesday. "We warn the Zionist enemy against harming our heroes and ask it to treat them according to international laws on prisoners of war," it said, adding that if the four were harmed or treated badly "we will punish the enemy and its agents." The PFLP said the Palestinians were caught after clashing in north Israel with Israeli troops and inflicting several casualties. The Israeli army said Israeli troops intercepted a four-man Palestinian squad attempting to infiltrate into Israel before dawn Wednesday. Three of the Palestinians were wounded in a brief firefight before the squad surrendered, while the Israeli troops suffered no casualties, an army spokesman said. They were captured in southern Lebanon, north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" and opposite the Israeli border settlement of Kfar Yuval, five kilometres northeast of Kuryat Shmona, the army said. In a brief communique, the army said its troops "foiled an attempt by a guerrilla squad which tried to infiltrate Israel and launch (an) attack against one of the civilian settlements in the north."

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Kuwait urges Western follow-up on Mideast

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Wednesday urged the leaders of seven top industrial nations who met in Toronto this week to put words into action and work for the convening of a Middle East peace conference. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, commenting on the Toronto summit, told reporters, "We are happy with this statement which is a positive development in the position of these countries towards Arab causes and their understanding of the situation in the occupied territories." The leaders expressed support for an international peace conference.

Kremlin hints it will expel Canadians

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union hinted strongly Wednesday that it would expel some Canadian citizens in response to Canada's expulsion of 17 Soviet diplomats. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference: "The provocation of the Canadian authorities naturally will not remain without due reply" (see earlier story on page 8).

Greece charges detained Arab

ATHENS (R) — An Arab detained on an Israel-bound ferry with a car packed with weapons was charged Wednesday with smuggling and possessing weapons and explosives, police said. The man, identified by the government as Omar Mohammad Sofareny who carried a West German passport, was seized Monday as the ferry was about to leave Piraeus for Haifa. In his car, police discovered a pistol, ammunition, two silencers, 20 detonators, and materials that could be used for explosive charges.

'15 hostages held in Hizbollah barracks'

LONDON (AP) — Syria has located the place in Lebanon where 15 foreign hostages are believed held by Iranian-backed extremists, the Independent newspaper reported Wednesday. The London daily quoted unidentified Syrian intelligence officers as saying the hostages are imprisoned inside the Hay Madi barracks of Hizbollah (Party of God), in Beirut's southern suburbs (British MPs secure Iranian pledge, page 5).

Israeli team due in Moscow in July

MOSCOW (AP) — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday a five-member Israeli consular delegation would visit Moscow during the last two weeks of July in the first diplomatic visit from the Zionist state in 21 years. Gennady Gerasimov said at a press briefing the delegation consists of the diplomats, plus a spouse, and that their visas will permit them to stay in the Soviet Union for two months.

U.S., Oman discuss investments

MUSCAT (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy held talks with an Omani official Wednesday on ways of encouraging American investment in the sultanate, the official Oman News Agency reported. Murphy, an assistant secretary of state and a Middle East specialist, discussed private sector investments in Oman with Mohammad Ibn Musa Al Youssef, under-secretary for financial affairs.

U.S. ship stages rescue in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — An American missile cruiser, on anti-aircraft patrol duty off the Saudi Arabian coast rescued six crewmen from a Greek oil rig supply boat that later sank, U.S. officials said Wednesday. The supply craft, identified as the Notora, apparently foundered because of a leak in its engine room, according to its captain. Charles Boyd, a spokesman for the U.S. central command, said the missile cruiser Halsey went to the Notora's aid after it radioed a distress signal Tuesday, 65 kilometres northeast of the Saudi Arabian oil port at Ras Tanura.

Turkey on alert after arms report

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is investigating a report that a squad of Iranian Revolutionary Guards aimed to smuggle in weapons and explosives to attack foreign missions in the country, officials said Wednesday. "An investigation has started. We are taking the matter seriously," a senior official told Reuters from the eastern province of Erzurum. The mass-circulation daily Hurriyet said an Iranian claiming to be a member of Iran's secret police told its Erzurum reporter six Revolutionary Guards and five Turks planned to link up with members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) in Turkey.

Egyptian lawyers plan strike

CAIRO (R) — More than 70,000 lawyers will stage a one-day strike in Egypt next Tuesday to protest against alleged police violence in the courtroom, their union leader said Wednesday. Ahmad Al Khawaga, chairman of the bar association, told a news conference they would boycott courts because of "police beatings of lawyers trying to defend their clients in court."

Haiti detains some after coup

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's new military government is holding some prisoners in the aftermath of the army coup, the information minister said Wednesday. Colonel Acedio St. Louis confirmed over the independent radio Antilles that an unspecified number of prisoners had been held since the coup late Sunday overthrew the four-month-old civilian government of President Leslie Manigat.

Drug smugglers, addicts held in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards have arrested hundreds of drug smugglers and addicts in a crackdown in Tehran province this week, Tehran Radio said Wednesday. It said they also seized more than 520 kilograms of drugs, including 495 kilos of opium and four kilos of heroin in the sweep which began Monday.

U.S. to send more troops to Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — The United States is sending 250 more troops to Panama as part of moves to boost security for U.S. installations here, a spokesman for the U.S. southern command said Wednesday. Colonel Ronald Sconyers told Reuters the additional troops are support personnel needed "to round out" the buildup of security forces that began last March amid rising tensions between Washington and military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Iran-contra suit set for trial

MIAMI (R) — Iran-contra figures, arms merchants and former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials go on trial next week in a \$24 million lawsuit accusing them of plotting murders and running an arms-for-drugs smuggling network. The suit, filed by the Christic Institute, a liberal legal-aid group, alleges that the CIA backed "secret wars" in Nicaragua, Cuba, South-east Asia and the Middle East. The charges read like the script of a James Bond movie. Christic attorneys say the trial will expose a massive criminal conspiracy that can be traced back three decades.

Japanese foreign minister due today

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan's minister for foreign affairs arrives in Amman Thursday on a 24-hour visit as a part of a Middle East tour aimed at assessing how Japan can help efforts for peace in the region. Soudouke Uoo, who began his Middle East tour in Syria Wednesday, is expected to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials and discuss the latest developments in the Middle East as well as bilateral relations.

According to an information official at the Japanese embassy here, Uoo's talks with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Israel were aimed at "seeking a role for Japan in a Middle East settlement."

The official said that Japan considered Jordan as "the most important country in the Middle

East because of the stability of the Kingdom."

Uoo will be the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Israel where he is expected to meet with President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

According to the Japanese embassy official, Uoo aims "to have an exchange of views over the Middle East problem and to try to persuade Shamir to withdraw from Arab territories occupied in 1967. The official added that Uoo would also attempt to persuade Shamir to take "a more flexible position towards an international conference" on the Middle East conflict.

The official said Uoo's visit to Israel did not indicate any change in Japan's basic policy in the Middle East, he said. "We support the Arabs," he said.



Soudouke Uoo

Uoo, who attended the Western economic summit which concluded in Toronto, Canada, Tuesday, will be leaving Amman to Israel Friday. His talks here are also expected to cover the stand taken by the Toronto summit on the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional issues.

Israelis attend Amsterdam conference along with PLO

TEL AVIV (AP) — A delegation including Israeli peace activists challenged a two-year-old law by attending a conference along with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) observers, a participant said Wednesday.

The delegates could face three years in jail if they were found to have violated a law passed in August 1986, which bars Israelis from meeting with members of the PLO.

In the first test case last month, a court convicted four Israelis for meeting with PLO officials in Comines, Romania, in November 1986. The four have not yet been sentenced.

Moshe Amirav, an Israeli delegate, told the AP the Israeli group attended the three-day symposium last week with Palestinian academics at the invitation of the Free University in Amsterdam.

Two PLO officials, Afif Safieh and Iman Halsey, attended the conference as observers but did not take part in its proceedings, he said.

"The law is stupid. But we will continue meeting in such a way that we won't be able to be ac-

cused of anything," Amirav said, adding that none of the delegate had been summoned for police questioning.

The daily Hadashot reported that Amirav met with the PLO officials, but Amirav denied the report.

Other sources, however, said some members of the Israeli delegation did meet with the PLO officials. The sources, who also attended the conference, declined to elaborate or be identified.

Amirav said the other Israeli delegates included Nitz Shapira-Libai of the Labour Party, former advisor to then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres on women's affairs, former left-wing legislator Meir Pail and human rights lawyers Naomi Chazan and David Kretzmer.

Amirav is a former activist in the right-wing Likud bloc who was drummed out of his party for advocating direct talks with the PLO and far-reaching self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

He encouraged party leaders last year by meeting with Faisal Husseini, a resident of Arab Jeru-

salem billed by the Israeli occupation authorities as the PLO's representative in the occupied West Bank.

Amirav, now a member of the liberal Centre Party, said the Israelis found the Palestinian academics surprisingly "moderate."

They said the PLO was ready to recognise Israel and end the Middle East conflict in return for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said.

"We were stunned by their attitude," he said. "They said they recognised Israel and believed there should be two independent states."

It was the third known group of Israelis to attend a forum with PLO officials and the first to include moderate participants more representative of the Israeli consensus.

The other groups openly defied the law and met directly with Palestinian officials, arguing that the PLO was not a "terrorist" organisation as contended by Israeli political leaders.

Carbomb kills 1 in east Beirut; Palestinians continue clashes

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb in east Beirut killed one person and wounded 18 Wednesday, while Palestinian groups battled in the city's devastated refugee camps in a savage power struggle that has claimed over 50 lives.

A police spokesman said a green Mercedes-Benz sedan loaded with 22 kilograms of explosives detonated at 11 a.m.

(0800 GMT) in the Karantina district, killing a civilian and wounding 18 others.

That raised to 94 people killed and 251 wounded in six car bombings in Lebanon this year by police count.

The police spokesman said the bomb which exploded in a narrow alleyway set six shops ablaze and damaged eight cars parked nearby.

Firefighters put out the blazes while ambulances evacuated the casualties to hospitals.

The Lebanese Forces, the main right-wing militia which controls east Beirut, said its explosive experts defused another car bomb in Karantina minutes before it was timed to explode.

The Lebanese Forces said in a statement that the car, a BMW, contained a 10-kg timebomb.

"The BMW was meant to explode shortly after the first car bomb to inflict as many casualties as possible among rescuers," the statement said.

But police could not confirm that there was a second car bomb. The Lebanese Forces blamed Wednesday's bombing, as well as previous car bombings in east Beirut, on a rival militia led by Elie Hobeika, a Syrian-backed Christian leader.

"We accuse Elie Hobeika and his gang who have practised and continue to practise the cold blooded killing of innocents as the only means they have to prove they still exist," it said.

Samir Geagea wrestled the leadership of the Lebanese Forces from Hobeika in bloody street fighting that swept east Beirut in January, 1986.

Hobeika's fall from power came two weeks after he, along with two other militia chiefs, gathered in Damascus and signed a Syrian-backed pact which would have ended the war by giving Muslims a bigger share of power.

The accord fell through when President Amin Gemayel, whose term ends in September, refused to endorse it.

Police said five people were killed and 18 wounded in clashes between the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Fatah faction and Syrian-backed dissidents of Saeed Musa's Fatah-Uprising for control of the Shatilla and Bourj Al Barajneh camps.

Police detain second suspect in Ozal attack

ANKARA (R) — Police have detained a second man suspected of taking part in an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, Turkish newspapers said Wednesday.

The papers named the man as Gazi Aydin and said he was held in Ankara Tuesday night suspected of firing at Ozal during Saturday's assassination bid.

Police shot and seized escaped convict Kartal Demirag after his gun jammed during the attempt, in which one bullet hit Ozal's hand and second narrowly missed his head.

Two guns, three clips of ammunition and a command knife were found in Aydin's home, the liberal daily Milliyet said.

Police refused to comment on the reports in Milliyet and other major newspapers but security sources said authorities had not ruled out a conspiracy to kill Ozal.

Both Demirag and Aydin are believed to have had links with the ultra-rightist Grey Wolves killer squad.

State security court prosecutor Nurettin Demiral, who has ordered official secrecy during investigations, told reporters: "We have obtained some very important

findings."

Ozal was attacked as he addressed 5,000 delegates of his ruling Motherland Party in Ankara's Ataturk Stadium.

Demirag, 32, is being held in an Ankara hospital.

Milliyet quoted unnamed sources as saying Aydin met Demirag on the morning of the attack.

Officials said two shots were fired at Ozal from a range of 10 metres before Demirag's gun jammed. A third bullet was later found in the stem of the microphone Ozal was using to make the opening address.

Bursts of automatic fire were heard on television replays of the chaos and police shooting following the attack. Fifteen people, mainly delegates, suffered gunshot wounds in the melee.

Milliyet said Aydin had been a supporter of the now defunct Nationalist Movement Party (NMP), to which the Grey Wolves were affiliated.

Demirag is alleged to have been a member of the Grey Wolves before the 1980 military coup which ended bitter civil strife between the right and left in which more than 5,000 people died in the late 1970s.

Journalist detained, page 5

Forest fires, general strike, widespread protests in occupied West Bank, Gaza

Uprising gains new momentum

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Fires blamed on Palestinian resistance activists destroyed wide areas of forests Wednesday and wave of stone-throwing protests signalled a fresh momentum in the six-month-old Palestinian uprising.

A special alert by Israeli police, firefighters and volunteers managed to block more widespread arson on a day when underground Palestinian leaflets called for burning Israeli forests and factories, said a spokesman for the agency that manages forests.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir contended that the fires and attacks on Israeli settlers were part of a new wave of violence aimed at destroying the Zionist state.

"There is a wave of aggression, whether arson or murder, against the Jewish presence everywhere in the land of Israel," Shamir told Israeli army radio. "The problem is one of survival."

In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, most businesses and schools were shut by a general strike called for in leaflets issued by the uprising's underground leadership.

An Israeli woman was injured when Palestinians stood in the middle of a West Bank highway and stoned an Israeli bus. Israel

radio reported. It said the bus was also hit by a firebomb but not set alight.

The largest fire scorched 50 acres of woodlands in Mt. Gilboa, 120 kilometres north of

Jerusalem, some of it part of a reforestation programme. The blaze began overnight.

Arsonists believed to be Palestinians set fire to fields between the village of Kafar Kassem and the West Bank town of Qalqilya, police said.

Fires were also started in two areas east of the coastal town of Ashkelon. Police said at least one was started by arsonists.

Four other fires raged through fields in other parts, but police

(Continued on page 5)

Amnesty urges inquiry into Israeli tear-gas use

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International urged Israel Thursday to investigate reports that use of tear-gas by its troops in the occupied territories had helped kill at least 40 men, women and babies.

The London-based international human rights organisation said Israeli soldiers had thrown or fired tear-gas intended for open air use into houses, clinics, schools, hospitals and mosques in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Local medical staff reported in the past few months that tear-gas appeared to have caused or con-

tributed to the deaths of more than 40 Palestinians, it said.

"Almost all the alleged victims belonged to sections of the populations vulnerable to tear-gas inhalation — babies, the elderly and sick people, particularly those with respiratory diseases," it said.

Amnesty said it had little clinical evidence of tear-gas related deaths for several reasons.

Palestinians were wary about agreeing to post-mortems on relatives for religious and other reasons, and hospitals in the

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqis take strategic peaks; Iran rebels evacuate Mehran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Wednesday it had recaptured four strategic mountain peaks and 20 other heights in three days of fighting with Iranian forces in northeastern Iraq.

A high command communique read over Baghdad television said troops of the First Army Corps launched a "sweeping offensive" at midnight Monday in the rugged Kurdish area.

They had driven the Iranians from strategic areas captured by Iran three months ago near the northeastern city of Sulaymaniyah.

The communique said Iraqi troops recaptured Safra and Basawa and the strategic mountains of Karda Rash and Parda Sour, along with surrounding peaks.

A communique telexed from the rebel headquarters in Baghdad to the Jordan Times in Amman Wednesday said the rebel forces pulled out of Mehran and back across the border into Iraq Tuesday night.

Further south in the Gulf war battlefield, Iraqi-based Iranian rebels said they have pulled back from a border town seized in a three-day offensive into western Iran, along with an arsenal of captured tanks, missiles and other hardware worth an estimated \$2 billion.

The offensive, codenamed

"Operation Forty Stars," was the rebels' biggest assault since they formed the National Liberation Army (NLA) a year ago around the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the main Iranian movement opposed to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The communique claimed

8,000 Iranian regular troops and Revolutionary Guards were killed or wounded and more than 1,500 captured.

By the NLA's account, that totalled more than half of the

(Continued on page 5)

Moscow militia warns against demonstrations

MOSCOW (R) — The Moscow militia said Wednesday it would break up unauthorised demonstrations during next week's Communist Party conference.

"Our reaction will be tough whenever unauthorised meetings and demonstrations have a patently provocative nature," a militia spokesman told a news conference.

TASS quoted the unnamed spokesman as saying the militia were aware of plans being laid for various protests but that no-one would be allowed to demonstrate without a city permit.

"Democracy means neither permissiveness nor anarchy. We won't allow a breach of the peace of Moscow residents," he said.

Among the groups who TASS said were known to be planning protests were people who had been refused exit visas and Crimean Tatars who want a Tatar

republic established in their traditional homeland.

A Moscow spokeswoman for the Crimean Tatars, Elvira Ablayeva, said Tuesday that police had already turned back several groups of Tatars who had tried to enter the capital.

She said they were carrying a petition for the party conference calling for the restoration of the autonomous Crimean Tatar republic on the Black Sea peninsula.

Under Soviet law, Moscow authorities must be informed about the time, place and goals of demonstrations, the militia spokesman said.

"If a meeting or demonstration is allowed, it will be held without the militia's interference."

"If no permission is given, it is the duty of militia to stop it in full compliance with the norms of law," he said.

Paris clears way for reshuffle

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand has formally accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Michel Rocard's Socialist government effective from midnight Wednesday, according to an official announcement.

Rocard, who made the announcement at the end of a cabinet meeting, tendered his resignation June 14 immediately after the inconclusive general election, but was asked to stay in a caretaker capacity.

The resignation paves the way for a government reshuffle expected next week, but Mitterrand has already said he will keep Rocard as prime minister.

The timing of the resignation was dictated by technical reasons connected with the opening of the new parliament Thursday.

Under the French constitution, serving ministers may not vote in parliament — a rule which would have deprived the Socialists of badly needed votes if the government had remained in place.

Rocard, a leading moderate in the Socialist Party, named his government May 12 in the wake of Mitterrand's reelection as president for a new seven-year term.

But his first administration was never expected to last beyond the general election which Mitterrand called in an unsuccessful bid to install a working Socialist majority in parliament.

The Socialists are 13 seats short of a working majority in the National Assembly (lower house of parliament) and need support from either the Communists or centrists for any bills they put to a vote.

Rocard is expected to make a policy statement to parliament June 29 but he will not seek a vote of confidence on his new minority government's programme.

No major bills are to be presented to parliament in its two-week session before the summer break.

But the Socialists need to muster maximum voting strength Thursday to ensure the election of former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius to the influential post of speaker.

The Socialists are confident that they can rule with a minority government because the constitution gives the executive an arsenal of measures to short cut parliamentary opposition.

Centre-right former Prime Minister Raymond Barre gave the Socialists a boost by breaking ranks with the right and proclaiming his readiness to support the government in certain cases.

Barre's office announced he was joining a new centrist parliamentary group formed by the Social Democratic centre party, until now a member of the centre-right alliance.

In a statement, it said Barre would sit as a member of the opposition but "support the work of the Socialist government whenever he believes it to be in the national interest."



Jerash Festival Higher Committee Vice President Laila Sharaf speaks to journalists about the forthcoming Jerash Festival. Also present is the festival's General Manager, Akram Masarwa (Petra photos)

1988 Jerash Festival to include new forms of art, entertainment



By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 1988 Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts will follow in the footsteps of the seven previous years but will also aim to be more organised and introduce new forms of art and entertainment to the public.

In a press conference held at the Regency Hotel Wednesday, Vice President of the Jerash Festival Higher Committee Laila Sharaf outlined the different performances and activities scheduled for this year's eighteen day festival, which will start on July 13, and pointed out that this year's selection of artistic performances will include an opera for the first time.

The festival will include sixteen performances by Jordanian groups, four performances and a handicrafts exhibition from neighbouring Arab countries and thirteen major shows from other countries.

According to Sharaf, the Jordanian folklore performances are organised and presented according to the "rule and genuine standards of this fine art."

Jordanian participation will be as follows:

- Jordanian Armed Forces Band
- Ramtha Folk Group
- Ma'an Folk Group
- Beit Fajjar Folk Dance Group
- Haya Arts Centre children's play: Country Evening
- Ministry of Culture/children's play: The Flying Carpet
- Children's play: The Good Neighbour
- Jordan Children Friends Club/children's play: Nussals Fairy Tale
- Royal Jordanian Folk Group
- Radio Jordan Orchestra
- Association of Jordanian Musicians
- The National Music Conservatory
- Fuheis Singing Group
- Al Jeel Club Dance Group
- Festival Lyric Band
- Talented Youth Theatre.

The festival's agenda is so full of interesting performances and events, which would attract audience from all walks of life, that it is difficult to determine the highlight performance of the festival.

The programme by the four Arab countries, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria hosts highly prominent names and troupes covering different field of art and culture in the Arab World.

Shows from neighbouring Arab countries will include Majda Al Roumi and her troupe from Lebanon, the renowned Iraqi musician Sa'doun Al Jahir and his troupe, the Egyptian National Folk Troupe, and the Zanoobia Operetta from Syria.

Thirteen different shows from Europe, the Far East and the United States will steal the show for many Jordanians who will have a chance to enjoy the different facets of Western art through the Jerash Festival.

International participation will be as follows:

- Italy: Italian Mattia Battistini Troupe (opera)
- Yugoslavia: National Folk Dance and Music Group
- U.S.: Oakland Youth Orchestra
- U.S.: Dayton Civic Ballet
- Greece: Krystallis Folk Dance Group, (classical music)
- West Germany: Kammerorchester Camerata Musica (classical music)

— Bulgaria: Bulgarian Dance Group of Burgas City Theatre

— United Kingdom: The British Actors Theatre Company (the Taming of the Shrew)

- Ballets de Monte Carlo
- USSR: Soviet Union Nazarov-Dancing and Singing Troupe
- North Korea: Bioung Young Acrobatic troupe
- Philippines: U.P. Filipiniana Dance Troupe
- Turkey: Handicrafts Exhibition

The exhibition, according to Sharaf, will also include a photography show, a handicrafts exhibition, a book fair and the traditional poetry festival, which was missing last year, will return to Jerash this year and is expected to keep its habit of attracting a large crowd.

Akram Masarwa, the new general manager of the Jerash Festival, told reporters that the historical city of Jerash will "be in the same place but wearing a new outfit." He explained that the management has already made plans to clean the area of street food-vendors.

Special tents have been prepared to serve as restaurants for the visitors "they can rest and eat comfortably," Masarwa added that a first class restaurant will open at the festival site as well as different cafeterias.

According to Masarwa a special cleaning company has been hired to ensure maximum comfort for visitors and special Jordanian cadres have volunteered their services to help guide and help Jordanian citizens and visitors to the festival.

Tickets for the festival will be available for sale at different areas in the capital and other major cities in the Kingdom, and Masarwa promised all those interested in attending any of the performances that "a ticket will always guarantee its bearer a seat at the performance."

20th meeting of Arab Educational Council for Palestinian Affairs opens in Amman

Jordan seeks help to confront Israeli distortion of textbooks

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday urged Arab countries to help confront Israel's drive to obliterate Arab and Islamic identity from the occupied Palestinian territories through its systematic distortion of textbooks and facts about the occupied areas.

The call was made by Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri in an opening address to the 20th meeting of the Arab Educational Council for Palestinian Affairs, which opened at the Amman Hotel in Amman.

This session is being held against a background of continued uprising in the occupied Arab territories where the Israelis confront the Arab revolt by closing schools, detaining children and transforming Arab educational centres into military positions or detention camps, Masri told the meeting, attended by delegates from Arab countries and the Arab League.

Masri said that the Jordanian Ministry of Education refuses and strongly condemns Israel's tampering with the textbooks and all its practices which conflict with international laws and regulations.

The Jordanian working paper which will be submitted to the eight-day meeting, Masri said, will cover Israel's measures and practices directed against the educational process in the occupied areas "where schools and universities had been closed and textbooks changed to serve Israel's objectives."

He said the paper also offers an analytical study of the textbooks written in Hebrew and Arabic, "designed to consolidate the Israeli occupation's hold over Arab territories."

The Ministry of Education in Jordan is concerned with fighting off cultural invasion in the occupied Arab territories and all measures designed to obliterate Arab heritage and Arab identity in Palestine, Masri noted.

He called on the participants in the meeting to adopt measures to strengthen Arab and Islamic identity and presence in the occupied lands.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Al Farra addressed the meeting, paying tribute to the Arab youths involved in the uprising that aims to end the occupation.

He said: "The uprising, has indeed tipped the balance (in the Arab-Israeli conflict) in the Arab nation's favour and exposed Israel's false democratic image by

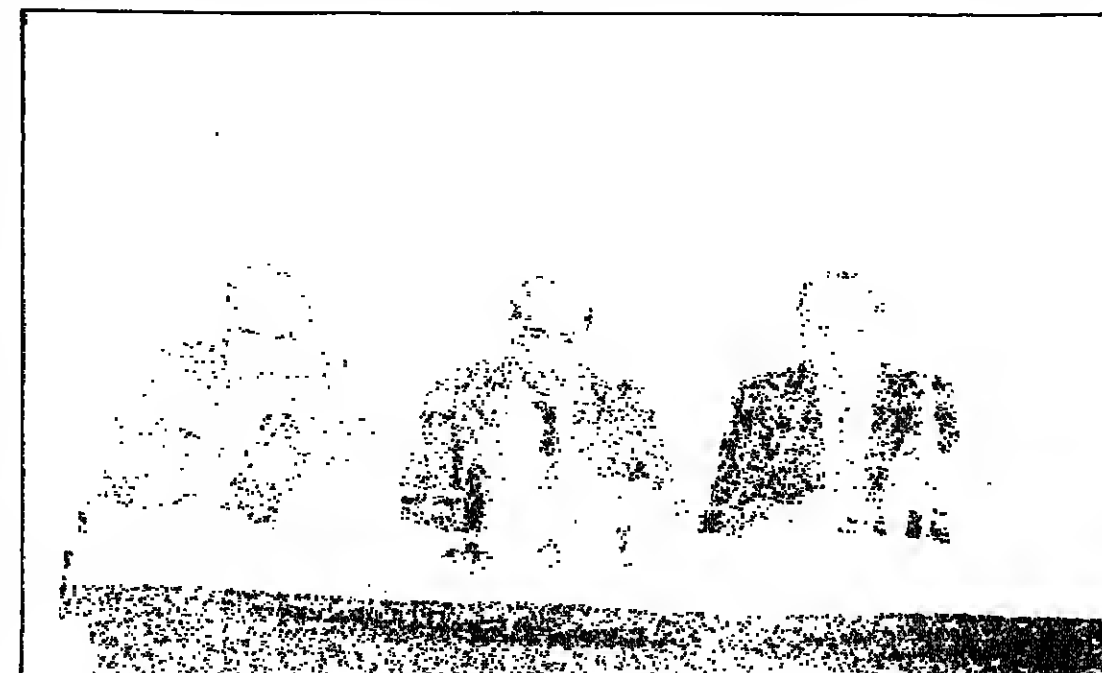
tion to Israel's practices and actions in the occupied Arab territories and a manifestation of the Arab people's great wrath," Farra said.

The session's chairman Mr. Nimer Al Masri who heads Palestine's delegation paid tribute to the council's endeavours to support the Palestinian people's cause and enabling Palestinian children to acquire education.

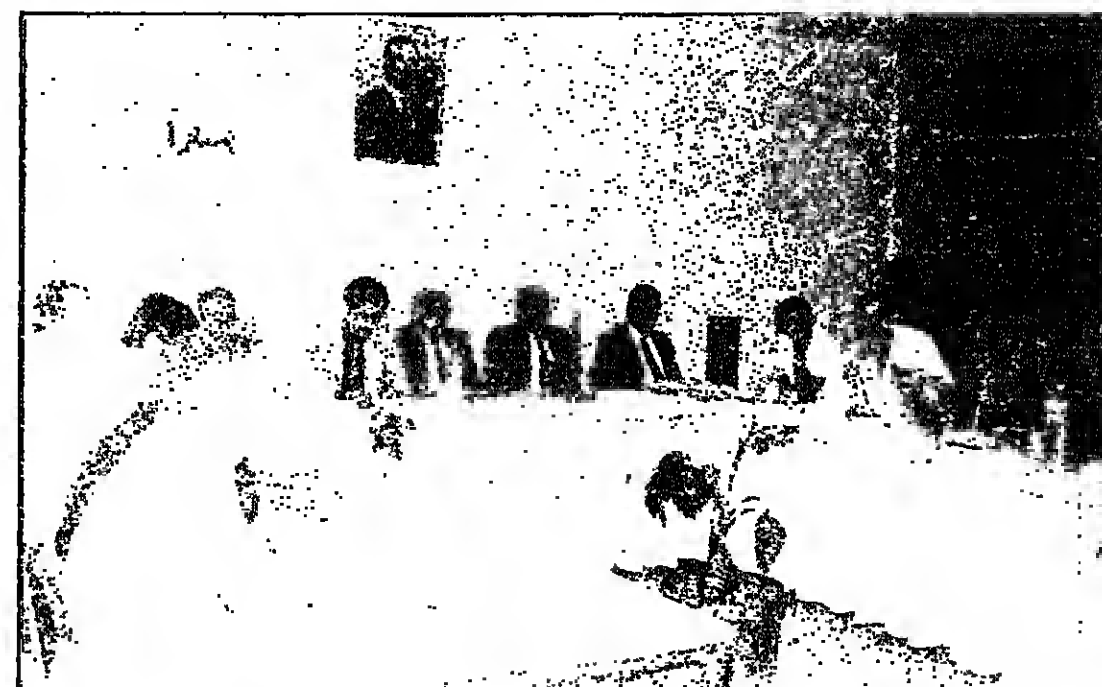
The meeting will discuss the education situation in the occupied territories since 1976 and review statistical reports by UN-

RWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) on schools in the Israeli-held Arab land, in addition to a report on educational programmes beamed to Palestinian children under Israeli rule.

Delegates taking part in the meeting, represent Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, the Arab League General Secretariat and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation.



Minister of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri (centre), flanked by Arab League Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Al Farra (left) and the session's chairman and head of Palestinian delegation Nimer Al Masri, opens a meeting of the Arab Educational Council for Palestinian Affairs in Amman Wednesday (below) delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the Arab League General Secretariat attended the meeting (Petra photos)



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: Retired Army Major General Mohammad 'Awdeh Al Najadat has conveyed the condolences of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on the death of the late Adnan Miz'il Al Majali.

NO PRINTING OUTSIDE: An official circular issued by the Prime Ministry requested all departments and official institutions to order all printed matter from local printing presses and refrain from sending any orders for printing to presses outside the country. The circular said that the Finance Ministry has been asked not to foot any bill for printing orders carried out abroad.

NEW CENTRE IN ZARQA: A JD 425,000 centre has been set up in Zarqa to offer driving lessons and training in automobile repair. The centre, set up at the Al Hashemeh Vocational Training School here as the first of its type in the Kingdom, is expected to become operational in three months, according to the centre's director.

NEW HEALTH CENTRE: Work started Wednesday on the construction of a comprehensive health centre at Mahes in Balqa governorate. The centre is expected to cost JD 230,000 is being built on a 13 dunum plot of land offered for the project by the Mahes Municipality, to offer services to the people of Mahes and neighbouring Fuheis.

TALKS ON POOR DISTRICTS: Greater Amman Municipality took part in a regional seminar on population in the poor districts of the Arab World which was held last week in Marakesh, Morocco. Case studies on the development of poor districts in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon and Jordan were discussed by the participants, according to a municipality official who attended the meeting.

NAOUR HEALTH SEMINAR: A seminar on the health situation in Jordan Wednesday began at Naour Medical Centre. Discussions focused on the studies and research undertaken by the Health Ministry, in addition to the duties of doctors working at medical centres.

NHF director general visits Salt crafts centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Director General Inaam Al Mufti Wednesday visited Al Salt Centre for Traditional Crafts which is supervised by NHF and the Salt Development Corporation (SDC).

Mufti met with Italian specialists employed by the centre to train Arab personnel on the production of traditional crafts like pottery and weaving.

The Italian government has supplied experts to help design training programmes and to operate the centre for three years.

At present they are training 15 young men and women in traditional crafts for a period of five months.

Mufti also met with the trainees and heard their views about the programmes and their future work.

The Italian government has provided equipment worth JD 600,000 as a gift for the centre which was established last year.

Mufti was accompanied on the visit by the NHF's Executive Director Thihni Ra'fat and Dr. Eideb Al Mutlaq the project's director.



Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat Wednesday addresses the opening of a pan-Arab scientific sports conference in Amman (Petra photo)

Khleifat urges universities to develop physical education programmes

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat Wednesday urged Jordanian universities to develop their physical education programmes and to include other topics in the curricula like mental health, sociology and ethics, all of which are closely linked to physical education.

Khleifat representing His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, made the call in an address to the opening of a pan-Arab scientific sports conference, the first of its kind to be held in the country.

The minister told a gathering of delegates from six Arab countries and specialists in physical education at Yarmouk University that physical training is an essential national element for a strong and

healthy Arab society. "Through promoting sports and physical training, Arab universities help to develop physical health and implant higher values and sound behaviour in the hearts of the young generation, providing them with a greater potential in production and social adaptation," the minister said.

Khleifat noted that most Arab countries have taken steps towards developing physical training, but he said universities should shoulder the task of conducting research and study in physical education to expand and promote learning in this field.

Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan addressed the session stressing that topics

on the agenda reflect the Arab nation's serious orientation towards scientific development of physical education programmes.

Other speakers included the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the director of the Physical Education Department.

Delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, representing a total of 14 universities, are taking part in the four-day meeting during which they will review working papers on all aspects of physical education and means of promoting the sports movement in the Arab World.

The governor of Irbid was among the dignitaries attending the opening session.

Arab states urged to cooperate in protecting local industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (ASPIP) Wednesday wound up a two day meeting in Amman with a call on Arab countries to give greater care to the question of transferring modern technology to the Arab World.

A statement issued at the end of the final session urged experienced Arab governments to extend training help to other countries on the art of concluding

agreements that can safeguard and protect industrial inventions and to share their expertise with less developed Arab states.

The statement urged all concerned with the protection of industrial property to join the society, and called on all Arab countries to put into force the society's recommendations issued at its 11th session in Cairo in November 1987.

The participants had reviewed the amendments to the society's

statutes and by-laws and a report on the society's activities in the past year.

They also elected Suhail Saba from Jordan as a new president to succeed Latif Hakim, and decided to hold the society's 13th session in Tunis in 1989.

The statement expressed the society's deep appreciation to Jordan for the facilities offered to the participants that helped in making their meeting a success.



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The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Est. 1973

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A welcome move

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Souda's visit to the Middle East this week marks a significant turning point in Japan's relations with the region, mainly due to the fact that his visit aims at exploring Japan's potential role in helping to resolve regional political disputes. We welcome the Japanese visit with enthusiasm, and feel that it might provide an opportunity for Japan to show the other major powers how to strike a balance between power and moral principles.

Japan is largely an untested quantity in Mideast diplomacy, more known for selling its technology and manufactured goods throughout the region than for getting involved in conflict-resolution. Its people have earned much respect in the rest of the world for their creativity, industriousness and quality work. The Japanese miracle has now moved beyond the stage of economic and industrial prowess, however, and Japan's role in the world ought to be commensurate with its true global power. Last year, Japan became the world's leading creditor nation, surpassing the United States in lending or investing abroad.

Japan does not have the traditional links to the Mideast that are evident in Europe or North America, whether in terms of religious affiliation, empire, or global geo-strategic imperatives. But it is precisely because of Japan's lack of constraining factors that we feel it can play a constructive and dynamic role in the region. Its economic and technological power will make itself felt more clearly in the region in the years to come, and both Israelis and Arabs have much to gain from good working links with Japan. The convergence of Japanese technical prowess with Arab raw materials, markets, entrepreneurial ambitions and geography — in the absence of political handicaps — makes Japanese-Arab cooperation a potentially major growth sector in the next decade.

That Japan should be keen to explore means of helping to resolve regional political conflicts is welcome news — particularly if Japan brings to bear upon Mideast diplomacy the same qualities that have seen it develop into an economic superpower. We look to Japan to articulate in strong terms its principled position on Arab-Israeli peace, and to continue working with those forces in the region which are committed to peace, justice and balanced human development.

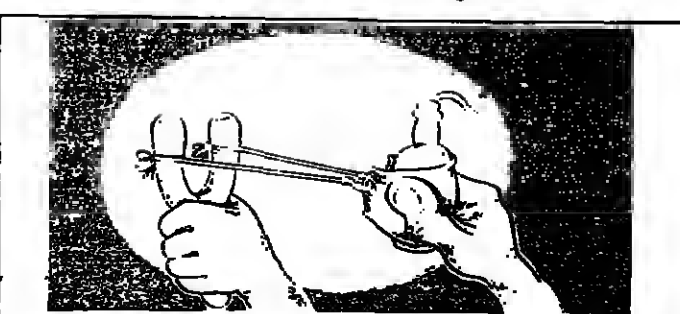
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Murphy reflects U.S. position

U.S. envoy to the Middle East region Richard Murphy has been reported saying that the United States will continue its efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and to end the Gulf War. Murphy is one of numerous U.S. officials who visited our region on different occasions and made the same statements either before or after their tours. It is a mere lip service which successive U.S. administrations offered without committing themselves to any meaningful action to put an end to the wars in this region. In Abu Dhabi, Murphy was reported to have said that it is for the benefit of peace that an international conference be held as soon as possible to open the way for direct negotiations. This simply reflects the fact that the U.S. is still holding on to its former position which in the past obstructed the convening of such conference. The U.S. administration believes that the conference should serve as an umbrella for direct talks between Israel and each of the Arab parties to the Middle East problem. This is in line with Israel's policy which aims to remove an international character from the projected conference and force each of the Arab states to capitulate, and to accept Israel's occupation of Arab territory. The U.S. position has not changed at all and it is based on the presumption of establishing a settlement between Israel and the Arabs which does not include a withdrawal from occupied lands nor will it include any mention of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. What Washington wants the Arabs to do is to succumb to Israel's will and accept defeat, capitulation and Israeli hegemony over their destiny.

Al Dustour: Unanimous on peace

LEADING industrial nations which met in Toronto were unanimous in their call for convening an international peace conference to solve the Middle East problem. This is a welcome development in the stance of the world's mightiest economic bloc, grouping the most important and most powerful western nations. The statement represents real progress in this bloc's views towards finding solutions for the Middle East problems since the improvement of east-west relations began. The statement, coming in the wake of a superpower summit meeting in Moscow, is nearer to the Soviet Union's policy on solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and points to new developments in the international political climate. The Western bloc expressed concern over the unstable situation in the Middle East in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular, thus clearly indicating that winds of real change in the west's position are now taking place, something which should prompt Israel to revise its own position and accept the call of peace. It seems that east-west détente will pave the way for a solution of the regional problems including the Middle East issue. This is clearly against the interests of the Israeli leaders who had been cooking on world tension and differences between the superpowers to enable them to maintain their aggressive policies in this region.



Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's manpower

HIS Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, told a meeting on Monday that Jordan should be maintained as a regional centre providing Arab states with highly skilled manpower. He said by providing such service to the Arab countries, Jordan will be further bolstering solidarity among all Arab states. But, he said, that for such policy to succeed it should be based on well-planned and well-executed programmes which must take into consideration the needs of the Arab society of trained manpower. Prince Hassan said that investment in education should also take into account the challenges awaiting the Arab Nation in the coming 21st century.

The youngest detainee is 10 years old

Editor's note: This is another part of the "uprising update" documented by the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre and distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights based in Chicago.

Ansar 3

"You've been in heaven until now," soldier to prisoner being transferred from Aitil Prison to Ansar 3.

A new prison has been opened in the Naqab desert at Qasmeb, 250 kilometres from Gaza City and 5 kilometres from the Egyptian border. The prison, which is called Kityot by the Israelis and Ansar 3 by the Palestinians, was a British military outpost during the Mandate period and has been an Israeli military outpost since then; it is a place where the Israelis incarcerate their own soldiers. Reports on Ansar 3 are preliminary as information is hard to obtain. This report contains two sections: the first is compiled from preliminary fieldworker notes; it concentrates on conditions for regular arrestees. The second is a press release by Al-Haq concerning two of its members' visit, in conjunction with a foreign journal, to Gaza attorney Raji Sourani. Sourani is in administrative detention there.

Preliminary Fieldworker Reports

As of April 14, some 2500-300 prisoners had been reported transferred to Ansar 3 from other prisons, including all administrative detainees from Gaza and at least 700 arrestees from Ansar 2 prison near Gaza City. This figure is triple the number reported incarcerated there as of April 2. Originally, administrative detainees were reported as kept separate from regular arrestees. This distinction appears to have broken down — especially as many prisoners do not know whether they are under regular or administrative arrest. Prisoners from the West Bank are kept separate from those from Gaza. (One report says that the Gaza and West Bank sections are 4 kilometres apart). Administrative detainees were initially reported as being held in barracks, in slightly better conditions than arrestees, who were held in tents. This may not still be the case.

Conditions in Ansar 3 resemble an internment camp more than a prison. There are 12 squares of tents, each holding 8 tents. Each tent contains 25 or more people. Prisoners live in these tents with open sewers, no water for washing, no visits, no reading material or radios and identification by ID number rather than by name.

Detainees are forced to work in the desert sun from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. building the camp, with only one bucket of water for every 25 prisoners. If a prisoner refuses an order he is left handcuffed in the sun all day. In April detainees were already complaining of the extreme heat and lack of adequate water supplies, and feared for their lives if the situation did not improve before summer. On April 16, 300 detainees were reported suffering from food poisoning from canned food they were given.

The army is allowed free movement, going in to beat prisoners without restriction. There are no interrogations; interrogations for Gaza arrests are done in Ansar 2.

A few lawyers who were given special permission to visit 25 detainees said that none of them had been questioned or knew the reason for their arrest or when they would be released. Some detainees, who said they were arrested and interrogated on specific charges, said that when they refused to give "confessions" their charges were changed to 180-day administrative detentions. The special lawyers' visits were stopped after a week. Israeli authorities said they would allow family visits in the future only if the families obtained permits from the Israeli civil administration in Gaza or the West Bank.

Prisoners wear special uniforms. Normally, families provide underwear and soap, but since there are no visits arrestees are without them. Lack of access to toilet facilities has created conditions in which many of the prisoners' uniforms are soiled with urine and excrement. The prisoners are of all ages, including the very old. The youngest reported administrative detainee is 10 years old; the oldest is over 65. It is very hot during the day and very cold at night. Prisoners are allocated 5 thin blankets, which are not enough under the conditions.

Food consists of dry bread and jam in the morning with ¼ cup of tea; tefina and rice with ½ cup of tea at noon; and a repetition of breakfast in the evening. Prisoners are taken to wash once a week; each tent of 30 has 20

minutes to wash in. There are bedbugs and other kinds of bugs and many prisoners are developing eczema. The only medicine prescribed is aspirin; the military doctor, who visits every week or two weeks, does not speak Arabic and is abusive to prisoners. Prisoners transferred from Aitil prison travelled the 250-kilometre distance kneeling on the floor of trucks, bent over, with their heads down and their hands behind them, bound with plastic handcuffs. (These handcuffs, which are actually a single plastic strip binding the hands, tighten but do not loosen. They are excruciatingly painful and cause the hands to swell). The trucks themselves moved deliberately abruptly through the distance.

Hundreds of Palestinian administrative and other detainees are being held in a desert prison near the Egyptian border, with inadequate water supplies and unsanitary conditions. This prison, which is newly in use, is reportedly capable of containing up to 3,000 prisoners.

Two of al-Haq's executive committee were able to visit Kityot Prison (popularly known as Ansar 3) in the Negev. There they met the Gaza lawyer, Raji Sourani, currently under a six-month administrative detention order, and from him ascertained the harsh and inhuman conditions under which he and some 125 other administrative detainees from Gaza are being held.

The most acute problem faced by the prisoners is the lack of water. Water is available only from slowly dripping taps, and, though the prisoners have learned to collect the water as it drips, it is never sufficient to satisfy their thirst in the desert conditions, let alone to wash or perform the ablutions necessary before prayers. No attempt appears to be being made to supplement the water supply, even for drinking purposes.

As to the sanitary and other conditions, an open sewer runs through the camp. The detainees are denied any access to information from books or radios and are denied any form of diversion.

The prisoners are repeatedly subjected to collective punishment, for instance the visiting lawyers were told by the prison authorities that the prisoners had been read their rights on the day of the visit.

According to Advocate Sourani, the prisoners have not been allowed visits from families or lawyers. The visit by al-Haq's lawyers was exceptional as they were accompanying an eminent foreign jurist. They were not, however, allowed to visit one of al-Haq's fieldworkers held in the prison, Abel-Kanin Kana'an from Tulikarem. All visits are conditional upon special permission being obtained from the military commander, and as far as al-Haq is aware no West Bank or Gaza lawyer or family member has yet been allowed to visit.

The prevention of contact with lawyers is especially serious in view of the recent change in the administrative detention regulations removing any automatic judicial review. Many of the prisoners reportedly wish to appeal against the orders, but have not been allowed to instruct their lawyers to present an appeal.

The visitors were informed that the prisoners had that day begun a warning hunger strike against the conditions, their demands being as follows:

- (i) more water
- (ii) closing of the open sewer
- (iii) visits from family
- (iv) an end to collective and brutal punishments
- (v) visits from lawyers to enable legal proceedings to be started

(vi) entry of books, radios and other means of diversion

(vii) curtailment of long periods of standing for counts

(viii) identification by name, not by number.

Both the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relating to civilians in occupied territories and the Israeli military regulations of 1982 concerning administrative detainees provide that administrative detainees, who are imprisoned without charge or trial, should receive special treatment to make their detention as painless as possible. Contrary to these provisions, Sourani and the other detainees are being held in some of the harshest conditions available in Israeli jails. These conditions can only deteriorate further as summer approaches and the prison becomes more crowded.

Watch it, all ingredients for disaster are there

By Dr. Asad Abdul Rahman

ALL FORMS of political affiliation have their underlying ideological bases. Political involvement, in the Arab World however, emanates from one of three basic and healthy sources: Arab national leaning, absolute and strong religious feelings, or internationalism. These ideological differences — as long as they are governed by the rules of the democratic process — are both natural and understood. What is not natural or understood, however, is the adherence — be it consciously or otherwise — to one of the various sick and detrimental offshoots that are derived from the above broad ideological sources. By this I mean national chauvinism, fanatic provincial sentiments, extremist religious fundamentalism, bigotry, and morbid religious sectarianism. Such adherence is dehumanising, detrimental and represents a flagrant deviation from the three broad healthy ideological options mentioned above. It also serves the Zionist and imperialist schemes to "Balkanise" the Arab World.

Lebanon is a living and clear example of how destructive fanatic factionalism and sectarian fragmentation could lead to. The Arab World is infested with, and threatened by, numerous similarly destructive trends that are currently latent, awaiting the favourable circumstances to float. Oddly enough, some of us who have in the past chosen one of the three healthy broad ideological options mentioned above adhere now to one or more of the sectarian racist or regional offshoots of the above and have become an active proponent of them. This drastic change of attitude has automatically placed them, willingly or unwillingly, in the service of colonialism and

Zionism aiming at the Balkanisation of the region. In order not to be accused of exaggeration or of jumping to dangerous and unwarranted conclusions vis-a-vis the importance and vitality of Arab broader unity and human broader solidarity, I would like to ask the following questions: Is Arab unity whether based on religious or national beliefs, against the interests of Arab citizens? When was the overemphasis and the fanatic narrow adherence to the basic elements comprising the Arab or Islamic nation in the interest of either? What did the Arabs gain from participating in hot or cold religious, factional or tribal wars? Was the achievement of Arab/ Islamic unity and the harmony of its comprising human and ideological elements ever detrimental? Who, but the British and French colonialists, dismembered and partitioned "Greater Syria" which was unified all through the centuries of Islamic and Ottoman rule? If the lessons of Arab medieval or modern history did not touch a sensitive chord in us yet, how could the lessons of Arab contemporary and "present history" in Lebanon be ignored? What did Lebanon gain from the regional and sectarian wars that afflicted it more than 13 years ago and are still raging unabated?

We have no other choice but to ring the bell warning against Balkanising the Arab World. Let us all be aware of not repeating the example of Lebanon again in any part of the Arab World. Let us all cooperate — wholeheartedly — in order to defeat all forms of factionalism, regionalism and racism and to "nip in the bud" all such trends before it is too late.

American Jews 'pioneer' West Bank settlements

By Suzanne Goldenberg

A LINE of ramshackle cars, the blue number plates denoting Palestinian drivers, chokes the army checkpoint. The bus — yellow-plated as are all Israeli vehicles — pauses and then breezes through the road block, an air-conditioned cocoon bearing Jewish settlers to their homes on the West Bank.

Built along a spine of hills leading from Jerusalem, the settlements overlook a land that seems definitely hostile, as their inhabitants stake what they hope will be an enduring claim to the Israeli-occupied territories.

The men commute to their jobs in the city with a gun by the gear stick. The children are ferried to school in vans manned by a single, paunchy reserve soldier. Occasionally, a cracked windshield attests to the seven-month-old Palestinian uprising.

It's a long way from, say, Scranton, Pennsylvania. But many Americans make the transition. Although U.S. immigrants make up only three per cent of Israel's population, they are heavily represented in the 120 settlements that were built on the West Bank to tighten Israel's grip on the lands won in the 1967 war.

Settlers estimate that Americans account for 20 per cent of the 70,000 Israelis who have moved out to the settlements in the past decade. At the militant religious settlements like Kiryat Arba — the support base of the openly racist Brooklyn rabbi Meir Kahane — the numbers can reach even higher.

Yehiel Leiter, a young bearded rabbi living in a settlement that was founded — illegally — in the centre of Hebron, says he cannot remember a family dinner (back in Scranton, Pennsylvania) where Israel and immigration were not discussed. He sees his initial move to Kiryat Arba in the 1970s as a natural extension of those dinner table discussions.

Hebron in particular, Leiter argues, is emblematic with a religious significance that makes it integral to the state of Israel. "Why Hebron? You might as well ask why Israel? Hebron is at the core of why Israel, why a homeland," he says.

Leiter, who wears a pistol at the hip and believes PLO supporters should be "told to cease and desist or be given a one-way ticket to Lebanon," has lived for the past four years at Beit Hadassah, a hive of flats protected by barbed wire and an Israeli sentry post.

All of its 350 residents are orthodox Jews — one-third of them from the U.S. — and their support for the settlements ranks them among the most zealous of the West Bank settlers. Beit Hadassah's founders — eight women squatters from Kiryat Arba — defied a government ban on Jewish settlement in sensitive areas. The settlement was later regularised by the Israeli authorities. "From our background, it's the most idealistic place to come," explains Leiter. "It's a more pioneering type of experience. It's newer in a sense. We've had it for less time and it is unpopular."

That background, according to American sociologist Janet Aviad, is lower middle class and parochial. "They come from a narrow religious perspective. They might have voted in the U.S. but they didn't really absorb liberal or democratic values," she says. "It's Jewish chosenness mixed up with religious nationalism."

Aviad, who is writing a book on the settlements, is a leading figure in the Peace Now Movement, their strongest opponent. She is even more dismissive of the extremist fringe like the followers of Rabbi Kahane — "the low-life of American Jews, the ones who didn't make it. They came from conflict situations in New York and looked to create one here."

That tension is palpable in Hebron, where Beit Hadassah has wedged itself among 60,000 Palestinians. In the past six months, at least 13 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with settlers on the West Bank, according to the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre.

While believers like Leiter have spearheaded Israel's settlement policy, in the past five years the government has tried to entice a new sort of pioneer — to the West Bank — the suburbanite. Tax rebates, housing subsidies, nominal payments for land purchases were dangled to help trans-

form the settlements into the dormitory communities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The more recent American migrants to the settlements reflect that trend. Still somewhat religious, they tend to have at least one university degree and waited to receive their professional qualifications in the U.S. to ensure a better lifestyle in Israel.

"I'd say about 30 per cent of the settlers are religiously or ideologically motivated, the rest of them are there because they are middle class people who wanted a middle class life."

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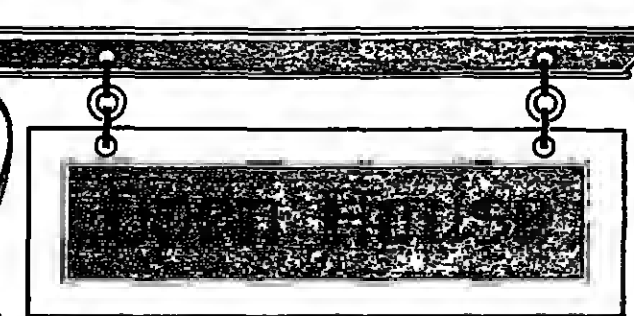
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مركز الحاسب في عمان

FROM THE WORLD'S PRESS ...

Iraq plans strategic offensive

WASHINGTON — Iraq is planning an offensive that could take its forces 30 miles (50 kilometres) inside Iranian territory and is designed to heighten tensions within the Iranian government at a time when concern about Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's health is mounting, Pentagon and Iraqi officials say.

The officials said Iraq had an estimated 200,000 troops near the southern port city of Basra poised for an assault within weeks on Majnoon Island, an oil-rich Iraqi area captured by Iran in 1984.

"In the next several months, Iran will be very vulnerable to Iraq. Iran's military position is very hollow. I am more hopeful that the war may be allowed to die down," one Pentagon official said.

"The concentration of forces, the engineering work, all that kind of stuff that supports offensive action — the building of roads, causeways, and mock-ups and the rehearsals of mock-ups — are indications of the Iraqi preparations," said another Pentagon official.

Iraq's military push is intended to exploit mounting tensions within the Iranian regime and growing opposition to the war within Iran, the officials said.

"The old man's health is getting worse and therefore there's a move to consolidate power in the hands of the radicals," one official said, referring to Khomeini, Iran's spiritual leader.

"Given the medical care he's receiving, he may be able to struggle along for a while," the official said.

He said the ayatollah was being treated by a team of approximately 12 doctors, among whom are several West Europeans.

Officials said the ayatollah had his own dialysis machine and was also suffering from a severe heart condition in addition to a cancer that was spreading through his body.

The number of Iranian volunteers to the war front has dropped by 70 per cent in recent months, the officials said — The Washington Times.

Israeli civil rights group blasts detentions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — The Israeli army has resorted to jailing thousands of Palestinians without trial to alleviate the overload of cases in clogged military courts, according to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

In its harshest report to date, the organisation said Monday military police were "lethargic" in investigating complaints of soldiers' brutality and have not responded to even one of the association's complaints.

The association also charged that Israel justice increasingly treats Jews differently from Palestinians, including Palestinians who are Israeli citizens living in Israel's pre-1967 borders.

"There is a double standard of justice for Arabs," said Neta Ziv Goldman, a staff attorney with the association. "Even in cases of a killing, a (Jewish) settler can get a ridiculous sentence, like six months' community service or a suspended prison term."

"On the other hand, a Haifa court gave a two-year sentence to a minor just a few days ago, for throwing a stone," Goldman said.

The association presented figures showing a dramatic rise in the army's reliance on "administrative detention" since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December. This regulation allows detention without trial.

In 1985, 1986 and 1987, the number of "administrative detainees" reached dozens at most, but now there are 2,500 held under this order.

"The standards that were used in the past — that this order is only for cases where someone poses a real security risk — have totally eroded," Goldman said.

Today, just about anyone can qualify for administrative detention, and it's much simpler than filing charges, tracking witnesses down, extending remand of prisoners," she said.

Among the "administrative detainees" represented by the association were a mentally-retarded man and two mentally-ill people, she said.

The army also changed "administrative detention" regulations by cancelling the "automatic appeal" granted detainees in previous years, Goldman said.

Of the 2,500 "administrative detainees," 950 have appealed their incarceration since the start of the uprising, a military spokesman said. Judges have heard 90 of the appeals, reducing or cancelling sentences in 15 cases, he said.

The association also accused the military investigative police of dragging its feet in investigating brutality by soldiers.

"To our sorrow, the investigation of these cases is generally conducted lethargically, and we have protested this again and again," the report said. "We have yet to receive a final answer to even one of our complaints."

The military spokesman said military police have examined 350 complaints, passing on two-thirds of those to the chief military prosecutor. He did not know how many complaints went unanswered.

Goldman said that because of the numbers of prisoners, families often were not informed of arrests and lawyers could not find out where clients were jailed.

"The investigative police is collapsing from the weight of the complaints," Goldman said. "They do not have the tools to deal with it and are not fully aware of the tremendous burden that falls on them."

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British MPs secure Iranian pledge to help locate hostages

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Four British lawmakers left Tehran Wednesday after an unofficial three-day mission to improve Anglo-Iranian relations with an Iranian pledge to "help locate" British hostages in Lebanon, Iran's official news agency reported.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted one of the British Members of Parliament (MPs), Robert Hicks, as saying Tuesday night that the "time is ripe" for Tehran and London to improve relations after years of strain.

IRNA quoted Deputy Prime Minister Ali Reza Moayeri as saying Tuesday night that Iran "will ask its friends in Lebanon to help locate" British hostages by pro-Iranian militants.

But he said that in return, Britain had to help locate and free three Iranians who have been missing in Lebanon since 1982.

The Iranians, Revolutionary Guards commander Ahmad Motevasselehi, Charge d'Affaires Hussein Musavi and IRNA correspondent Kazem Akhavan, were kidnapped by gunmen in north Lebanon in July 1982 during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. They have not been heard of since then.

The Britons missing in Lebanon are Church of England envoy Terry Waite, who vanished in Beirut Jan. 20 last year while seeking to free American hostages, and journalist John McCarthy.

Teacher Brian Keenan, who hails from British-ruled Northern Ireland, is also missing. Keenan, who holds an Irish passport, was abducted by gunmen in Beirut April 11, 1986.

Waite, McCarthy and Keenan are believed to be held by pro-Iranian extremists.

A group called the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims, believed linked to Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal, said it kidnapped another British journalist, Alec Collett, March 25, 1985.

While it was not clear how the British could help free the kidnapped Iranians, if they are still alive, the Iranian offer on the hostages indicated that the lawmakers' visit has brightened the prospect of improving relations between Tehran and London.

But the kidnapers claimed they killed him in retaliation for British support or U.S. air raids Libya April 15, 1986.

It issued a videotape showing Collett's body dangling from a scaffold. His body has not been produced, but British officials believe he is dead.

The Church of England said before the MPs flew to Iran that the meeting had been called by the Iranian government. They were expected to brief the archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, after arriving back in Britain later Wednesday.

The mission included Conservative Caryl Chessman, Labour MP Tom Clarke and Social and Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Tordoff.

John Cookson, a correspondent for Britain's Independent radio network who accompanied the British mission to Tehran, reported Tuesday that the Iranian government planned to free the Britons missing in Lebanon, along with another two Britons held in Iran, by Christmas.

Quoting an unidentified Iranian source, Cookson said the Iranian move was in response to an agreement with the British government to compensate Iran for damage to its embassy in London.

There was no independent confirmation of that report and none of the British lawmakers or the Iranian leaders they met made any mention of a timetable to free the captive Britons.

British tourist Nicholas Nicola, 23, and businessman Roger Cooper are in prison in Iran.

Nicola was arrested in 1986 on charges of firing shots at a checkpoint on the Iran-Pakistan border. Cooper, 53, has been held since December 1985 on charges of spying.

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Fire kills 47 at Coptic monastery

KOUSSEYA, Egypt (Agencies) — Forty-seven people were killed when fire swept through their tents as they slept at an ancient monastery near this southern town early Wednesday, hospital officials said.

First reports said the blaze was caused by gas cylinders exploding and lasted seven hours, burning down visitors' tents in the 30-acre grounds of the Al Muharrarq Monastery, which dates back to Biblical times.

Hospital officials said all the dead were Egyptians.

The monastery traditionally marks the southernmost point reached by the holy family during their flight through Egypt to save Jesus Christ from death in Palestine. The pilgrims were at an annual festival dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the fire began late Tuesday night when sparks from a makeshift food booth wafted onto some tents and ignited. He said the booth's two owners, both Copts, were arrested.

He said the monastery in Al Kousseya, north of the southern provincial capital Assiut, was not damaged.

"There were 47 dead, mostly children who either died in the fire or in the panic that followed," the official said. "There was a big rush from the pilgrims towards the main gate of the camp. Some children fell and were trampled to death."

He said 15 people were injured trying to escape.

Unlike many early Coptic monasteries that were built in desert isolation, Al Muharrarq is along a relatively well-travelled route near the Nile river about 55 kilometres north of Assiut. The provincial capital is 385 kilometres south of Cairo.

Galliner said he appreciated the "extremely difficult circumstances" in Turkey at present but called on the government to uphold press freedom and a free flow of information.

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Neither is the origin clear of the monastery's name, which means "the burnt monastery."

The Assiut police official said foul play is not suspected in the fire. He said authorities had authorised burial of the dead, which in Egypt is allowed only where the cause of death is not in question and a corpse is not required for criminal investigation.

Formerly a Christian stronghold, the Assiut area has become in recent years a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalist militancy. Several times, Muslim extremists have attacked Coptic Christian shops.

The Coptic Orthodox Church is reputed to be the oldest community in Christendom. It traces its origins to the disciple St. Mark, who tradition says founded a congregation in Alexandria in the first century A.D.

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Kuwait reports \$95b in overseas investments

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's surplus petrodollars invested abroad stood at about \$95 billion at the end of 1987, according to the annual report of the Kuwait Stock Exchange released Tuesday.

The stock market's director-general, Hisham Al Oteibi, said that Kuwait's income from foreign investments formed 60 per cent of the country's revenues reported in the oil sector.

He did not give figures, but said that Kuwait's oil income in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1988 amounted to \$6.11 billion. The oil revenues accounted for 80 per cent of the country's national income, he said.

"The country's surpluses are split into two parts, namely the general state reserve which amount to \$45 billion and the Future Generations Fund which now includes \$50 billion," Al Oteibi said.

The fund is a facility to which 10 per cent of the country's oil income is added every year with the aim of enabling the posterity

to lead a good life in case oil, the backbone of the economy, runs out.

The report said that 35 per cent of Kuwait's foreign investments are in the United States, and the rest is distributed over a wide geographical area in Europe and South East Asia.

It said that in addition to Britain, West Germany, France, Switzerland and Holland, Kuwait is now tapping the Spanish market where it has already channelled \$2.5 billion.

The report described the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), an arm of the Kuwaiti finance ministry, as "one of the most active financial institutions in the world."

The KIO is coming under fire in the United Kingdom for not paying taxes to the British govern-

ment and for its acquisition of a 22 per cent stake in the giant oil firm, British Petroleum.

Following the outcry in the United Kingdom over the KIO's activities, the Kuwaiti finance minister, Jassim Al Khorafi, has set up a three-member panel to reappraise the investment policies of the Public Investment Authority and its subsidiary, the KIO. The panel is reportedly in London for a first-hand assessment of the KIO's projects.

Similar complaints were also aired in Spain over the potential impact on the management of concerned ventures as a result of the rapidly increasing Kuwaiti shares in several Spanish firms.

The director of the stock market also reported that "a substantial part of private funds invested abroad has returned home following the October crash on the world stock exchanges."

"This reflected positively on the local economic activity," he added.

G-7 agrees to aid poorest states

TORONTO (R) — Leaders of the seven major industrial democracies ended their 14th economic summit Tuesday with an agreement to ease the debt burden of the poorest countries and to work together closely to keep the world economy growing.

"We have achieved consensus on rescheduling official debt of these countries," a communiqué said in a section devoted to the debt of the poorest.

Under the plan, the seven governments will either cancel some of the loans they have made to about 30 sub-Saharan countries, reduce interest rates or give more time for the loans to be repaid.

The initiative was the signal achievement of a largely uneventful three-day meeting, which brought together the leaders of

Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and, in his last scheduled appearance at an international meeting, U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The meeting lacked suspense largely because the seven nations had pulled together to prevent last October's stock market crash from tipping the world economy into recession.

Employment had continued to expand in most countries, inflation had been restrained, and the huge U.S. trade deficit, along with the mirror-image surpluses of West Germany and Japan, were finally coming down, the communiqué noted.

"The encouraging developments are cause for optimism, but not for complacency," it said.

"To sustain non-inflationary growth will require a commitment to enhanced cooperation. This is the key to credibility and confidence," the seven leaders declared in the communiqué read by summit host Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

The communiqué contained a familiar prescription for reducing trade imbalances further.

Countries with trade deficits such as the United States were urged to live more within their means, while surplus countries such as West Germany and Japan were exhorted to keep their economies humming to suck in more U.S. goods.

The exporting countries of Asia, which include Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore were told that they, too, had to be willing to help to make world trade less lop-sided.

Until last year the main plank of the strategy for cutting the U.S. trade deficit, which topped \$170 billion in 1987, was to spur U.S. exports by driving down the dollar and making American manufacturers more competitive on world markets.

But the leaders reaffirmed in Toronto that a further fall in the dollar, which has fallen more than 50 per cent against the Japanese yen since early 1985, would do more harm than good. A further decline "could be counterproductive by damaging growth prospects in the world economy," they said.

Trusthouse Forte enters Italy

ROME (Agencies) — Trusthouse Forte, part of the Amman Plaza Hotel chain in Amman plans to move into Italian mainland at last. The group has just announced three new developments.

One development is the purchase of a controlling interest in the deluxe five star Excelsior Gallia in Milan.

The hotel has 248 rooms, conference facilities for 400 and an international restaurant. The property will be extensively refurbished and operated as one of the group's collection of exclusive hotels.

The second move is to build a new 350-room luxury hotel at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport, while the third development planned is the purchase of the Palazzo Della Fonte Hotel in the famous spa resort of Fiumi. This property will be completely renovated and reopened in 1989.

At the same time, the group is extending operations in West Germany as well. Just announced is the purchase of the 125 room Grand Hotel in Nuremberg.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7760/70	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2050/60	Canadian dollar	
	1.7655/65	Deutsche marks	
	1.9860/70	Dutch guilders	
	1.4670/80	Swiss francs	
	36.87/92	Belgian francs	
	5.9470/9500	French francs	
	1309/1310	Italian lire	
	128.35/45	Japanese yen	
	6.1240/90	Swedish crowns	
	6.3880/3980	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7130/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	449.10/449.60	U.S. dollars	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 22, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	653230	JD 381430	519
Top three companies:			
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipment	218120	JD 47251	78
Dar Al Shaah Press, Printing, and Publishing	71700	JD 44142	58
Arah Bank Ltd.	250	JD 28544	3
Parallel market:	22001	JD 8123	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A late scramble for resource stocks helped to push the market to a higher close in all sectors by profit-taking kept the market off its early highs. The All Ordinaries Index rose 10.5 to 1,612.6.

TOKYO — Prices fell on profit-taking in moderately active trade after rising sharply on Wall Street's rally and news of a smaller-than-expected May increase in the U.S. consumer price index. The Nikkei Index fell 64.79 to 27,860.78.

HONG KONG — Prices closed higher but profit-taking pared earlier gains. The Hang Seng Index rose 13.77 to 1,790.80.

SINGAPORE — Prices recovered, reversing Tuesday's moderate losses, on selective buying and bargain hunting. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 15.92 to 1,071.99.

BOMBAY — Prices rose sharply after exchange authorities reduced daily deposit margins on purchases. Selective buying by institutions also boosted the market.

FRANKFURT — Shares advanced in active trading as the strength of the dollar encouraged both domestic and foreign buying. The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, rose 19.9 to 1,442.2.

ZURICH — The market was firmer across the board in moderate trading, boosted by a firmer dollar and gains on Wall Street. The All-Share Swiss Index gained 8.7 to 872.4.

PARIS — Share prices ended the last session of the bourse accounting month 1.93 per cent firmer in active trade despite a bourse employees' strike.

Britain hikes interest rates

LONDON (R) — Britain raised interest rates Wednesday for the third time this month in the government's continuing campaign to dampen a credit-fuelled consumer buying spree that it fears will rekindle inflation.

The Bank of England, Britain's central bank, raised its money market lending rate by half a percentage point to nine per cent.

The other rises this month, also by half a percentage point each time, occurred on June 2 and 6.

"We will not take risks with inflation," a spokesman for the British treasury said of the rate increase.

British financial markets had been anticipating the rise since late last week.

A Bank of England spokesman

said the increase was aimed at keeping credit tight to bear down on inflation.

He would not say if the increase was coordinated with other nations.

On Tuesday, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said in Toronto that the just-completed Group of Seven industrial nations' summit now had cooperation policies on inflation as well as on currency-exchange rates.

"The policies which we have agreed on — both on inflation policy and on exchange rate policy — may have consequences for interest rates and interest rate differentials," Lawson said, adding: "But that is a matter for each country to decide for themselves."

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WEEK END CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Estenson

BROADWAY NO-HITTERS

Jeanne Wilson

- ACROSS
1. Kinky shoes
 2. Edible seed
 3. Barter
 4. Judicial month
 5. Two under par
 6. Entrée meat
 7. Mound
 8. A Belter
 9. Thummed of the senate
 10. Part of CEO
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Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Khalil Haddadin	A. Elzaman	Owner	A. Jabir	56
2- Kamal Wasi Boharati	H. Elromman	Khalreidlin		55
3- Aly Fareed El Saad	Sary	Khalreidlin	Rashed	53
4- Aly Fareed El Saad	J. Elsaad	Khalreidlin	Mofata	53
5- Aly Fareed El Saad	Saad Aly	Khalreidlin		53
6- Nimir El Hnoud	Hattab	Owner	Ibrahim	53
7- Nimir El Hnoud	Sum	Najir		51.5
8- Abdulhazim Iman	Rowan	Owner	Yousef	51.5
9- Fawaz Anwar Shalan	Abshir	Mohsin	Kasim	50

Delhi urges communal restraint after Sikhs escalate bombings

NEW DELHI (R) — The death toll from two powerful time bombs set off by Sikh separatists in the north Indian city of Amritsar rose to at least 27 Wednesday and the New Delhi government appealed for communal restraint.

Home (Interior) Minister Buta Singh said the Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland in the northern state of Punjab were bent on setting religion against religion. "Communal harmony should be maintained at all costs," he said in an urgent appeal.

The Amritsar bombs exploded simultaneously in a street of predominantly Hindu cloth merchants Tuesday evening as many people were heading to the nearby stock exchange for the latest business news.

At the blast scene later, angry people pelted police with stones and bottles and witnesses said at least six Sikhs were beaten up. Police said Wednesday at least 27 people died in the blast. They said 30 may have been killed, but the repetition of some names on the list of dead left some confusion.

Sikh militants fighting for a homeland they call Khazistan (land of the pure) say they aim to provoke anti-Sikh violence.

They say a backlash would force Sikhs elsewhere in India to flee for safety to Punjab, where Sikhs are a bare majority. Hindus, in turn, would flee from rich agricultural state.

More than 2,000 Sikhs were killed in New Delhi in 1984 after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by Sikh bodyguards.

The latest Sikh bombing, aimed at Hindus although Sikhs have also died, has raised fears of a repetition. In west Delhi, where separatists lobbed a bomb into a food market Monday killing three Hindus, police have banned meetings of more than four people to prevent violence.

The revivalist Hindu Shiv Sena Movement, which has a large following, has called for the army to be sent into Punjab.

The organisation's Punjab leader was killed Sunday, the same day 16 people in neighbouring Haryana State were killed by a bomb thrown into a crowd watching a Hindu epic on television at an electrician's shop.

New Delhi has refused to send in troops in the past. Sikhs are still bitter towards the army after troops stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhdom's holiest shrine in 1984.

More than 1,000 people died in that operation, which led to Gandhi's assassination.

In Amritsar, police fearing violence maintained an indefinite curfew on the walled city, in which the Golden Temple lies, and other areas where Sikhs and Hindus live side by side.

The mood on the cloth merchants' street Wednesday was still one of shock among survivors. Congealed blood remained on the streets despite rain showers. The bombs hurled petrol tanks of motorised rickshaws and many people were burned.

"Several people turned into human torches. Their clothes and hair were on fire and they ran screaming," said paramilitary policeman Satish Kumar, who was on patrol about 100 metres away when the bombs exploded.

Devinder Sharma spoke of his miraculous escape as the bombs went off near a crowded sweet shop where he was selling tea. His father was injured as they sat beside each other and his uncle wounded by a bomb fragment that went through a freezer before hitting him, Sharma said.

The latest killings raised to more than 1,360 the number of people killed in Punjab by the radicals since the start of the year. At least 55 other people have died this year in attacks by Sikh extremists in neighbouring states.

The bombings were blamed on the Barbar Khalsa group, one of a dozen Sikh extremist groups operating in Punjab.

A.A. Siddiqui, a deputy inspector general of Punjab police, said that law enforcement officials had launched an extensive operation aimed at suspected Barbar Khalsa hideouts.

Siddiqui also said that patrolling has been stepped up and that the government has renewed warnings to citizens not to touch suspicious objects.

'U.S. shuns Afghan role after pullout'

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United States would take care not to become involved in Afghan politics after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country, diplomatic sources said.

Washington, which has supplied military aid to Afghan fighters, would be comfortable with any new government emerging after the pullout, convinced it would be opposed to the Soviet Union, the sources said Tuesday.

Some recent press reports have said the United States was giving up a policy-making role it has performed for its ally Pakistan on the Afghan issue. Pakistan also supports the anti-Soviet Mujahideen.

Washington, by avoiding involvement in future Afghan affairs, would allow the Mujahideen to fight among themselves and leave Afghanistan to be ruled by anti-Western politicians, the press reports have said.

But one diplomatic source close to the U.S. embassy here said: "The U.S. realises that it would be crazy to delve into the future politics of Afghanistan."

"It wants Afghans to work out their own future but believes it would be comfortable with any new Afghan government which it sees would be anti-Moscow," the source said.

Western analysts have speculated that the Mujahideen could topple the Soviet-backed Afghan forces within months of the withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier and install their own government.

Afghan President Najibullah says his army can defend the country against the Mujahideen without the Soviet troops if there was no outside intervention.

Estonia to bring radical ideas to party meeting

MOSCOW (R) — Delegates from Estonia will bring radical ideas for the future of their Baltic homeland and other Soviet republics to a Communist Party conference opening in Moscow next week, according to the local press.

The June 18 edition of the youth daily Molodyozh Estonii, which reached Moscow Tuesday, carried the text of proposals which include making Estonia economically autonomous and politically much more independent from Moscow.

The document is potentially political dynamite at a time when

the Kremlin is facing serious ethnic unrest in Transcaucasia and rumblings of discontent in several republics from Moldavia to the three Baltic states.

In an interview with the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia published Tuesday, new Estonian Communist Party leader Vaino Vaelas said the platform was a "unique document discussed by the whole people and incorporating the ideas and aspirations of a broad spectrum of public opinion."

This comment confirmed indications that Vaelas, appointed last week to replace veteran party

leader Karl Vaino, was a liberal likely to be more sympathetic to the ideas of leading intellectuals who have said that small but efficient Estonia suffers from overcentralised direction from Moscow.

On the economic front, the delegates' proposals called for full economic autonomy for Estonia in the civilian sector from 1990.

Estonia and the other 14 Soviet republics should decide their own prices, tariffs, salaries and financial policies on the basis of their own incomes, the document said.

Karabakh seeks interim independence

MOSCOW (AP) — The parliament of Nagorno-Karabakh asked Moscow officials Tuesday to take control of their region away from a southern republic until a dispute over its jurisdiction is resolved, a source said.

The region of 160,000 people has been part of Azerbaijan since 1923, but Armenians want it annexed to their neighbouring republic.

Nagorno-Karabakh's Soviet of People's Deputies voted Feb. 20 to request annexation with Armenia, but Azerbaijan's government refused to give up the territory.

On Tuesday, the regional body tried another tactic. Appealing to the Central Supreme Soviet in Moscow to make the area independent of any republic, according to Koryun Nahabedian, an Armenian activist in Moscow.

He spoke to Nagorno-Karabakh residents familiar with the decision. Nahabedian, who has led several Armenian demonstrations in Moscow, said the independence would last until the Supreme Soviet, the country's legislature, decided whether to keep Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan or give it to Armenia.

Most of the Nagorno-Karabakh's residents are Armenians, a predominantly Christian people. Most Azerbaijanis are Muslims.

A resident of Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh's regional centre, said the "whole city" of 60,000 people had gathered outside government buildings to await their legislature's decision. The resident, speaking by telephone on condition of anonymity, said the legislature rejected a proposal to secede from Azerbaijan without the republic's consent.

The legislature appealed to residents who have been striking since May 23 to return to their jobs.

Rangoon quiet after riots

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Quiet returned to the streets of Rangoon Wednesday after authorities enforced restrictions following anti-government rioting in which at least six people were killed and two dozen injured.

The government ordered a 6 p.m. (1330 GMT) to 6 a.m. (2330 GMT) curfew and banned public meetings and demonstrations after some 5,000 students and other protesters fought stone-throwing duels with riot police Tuesday. The government radio said the restrictions would last until August 19.

Students from the Rangoon Arts and Science University surged into the streets after authorities closed the school and other institutions where students had peacefully demonstrated during

the past week. The demonstrations called for the release of detained students and legalisation of student unions.

Similar protests occurred in March.

The government radio said five police personnel were killed and 26 others seriously wounded "as a result of an attack by an unruly mob armed with swords, sticks and catapults."

A rioter was killed and several others wounded, it added.

The broadcast said the mob set fire to one police station and the family quarters of another station and damaged government-owned cinema balls and traffic light posts.

Authorities Wednesday suspended classes at two more institutions.

Dutch prepare for mass toilet flush

AMSTERDAM (R) — Authorities in this low-lying nation protected by dikes are taking special water precautions during a soccer match Tuesday — when the Dutch will flush their toilets at the same time. A Dutch water authority ordered work to stop on a pipe project, fearing that live television coverage of the game with consequent mass, synchronised toilet-flushing would put pressure on the water system.

The southern Dutch province of Brabant said work on the pipe was being interrupted between early evening and midnight during a semi-final match between the Netherlands and West Germany in the European soccer championships in West Germany.

"We have learnt from experience that a lot of people go to the toilet during and immediately after an important televised match," a spokesman said. "That puts pressure on the water system. We postponed the work until after midnight in case the game went into extra time and a penalty shoot-out."

The match was interrupted between early evening and midnight during a semi-final match between the Netherlands and West Germany in the European soccer championships in West Germany.

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Canada orders eight Soviet diplomats out

OTTAWA (AP) — Eight diplomats from the Soviet Union were ordered out of Canada last week for espionage activities, Canadian press said Tuesday.

The news agency reported that sources said another nine Soviet diplomats who completed their tours of duty within the last six months have been quietly told they are not welcome to return.

The eight who were ordered out included two people from the Soviet embassy in Ottawa and six who had diplomatic status but were based in Montreal, the agency said, adding that all eight have since departed for the Soviet Union.

The other nine, it said, returned home at various times as their tours ended in recent months. It said they have been declared persona non grata, meaning they are not allowed to return to Canada and are not likely to be allowed to take up residence in any other Western country.

Sources said the espionage targets were primarily scientific and technological in nature, but

some were believed to be military, Canadian press continued.

It said the expulsions were not believed to be linked to the filing of charges last week against Stephen Joseph Ratkai, a Nova Scotia of Hungarian descent who was charged under the official secrets act with gathering documents useful to the Soviet Union.

Ratkai was charged following a two-year investigation that centred on classified U.S. military documents believed to come from a submarine-tracking station at Argentina, Newfoundland.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, questioned by reporters on the ouster report at the close of the seven-nation economic summit in Toronto, would not comment on details.

"I will confirm that, indeed, the government of Canada took some action last week in regard to improper and unacceptable behaviour on behalf of the Soviet Union," Mulroney said.

He said the government acted on the basis of information provided by Canadian security officers.

Muslim students protest in China

PEKING (R) — Hundreds of Muslim students protested against plans to make them share dormitories with non-Muslims in the latest sign of ethnic unrest in China's Xinjiang Province, witnesses said Wednesday.

The protesters from the Turkic Uygur ethnic group took to the streets of the north-western city of Urumqi on two successive days last week. They demanded continued segregation from majority Han Chinese students at Xinjiang University, the region's top college.

Teachers said Han, or ethnic Chinese, students had also complained about the university's plans to end segregation, based partly on Uygur students' religious objections to pork — a

major feature of mainstream Chinese cooking.

The demonstrations were peaceful, the sources said.

A Xinjiang regional government official confirmed that the protests had taken place and said no students were arrested, but declined to give any other details.

Uygur students have sporadically protested against Chinese policies in the remote region, where Muslim ethnic groups are in the majority but most leading Communist Party posts are held by Han Chinese.

The latest demonstration comes amid a sensitive change of policy by the authorities, to impose birth control rules from July 1 on Xinjiang minority groups, which were previously exempt.

Norway minister pledges probe into heavy water

OSLO (R) — Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, promised Wednesday a full inquiry into Norway's sales of heavy water after a string of allegations that foreign powers had used it to make atomic bombs.

"We will make a full inquiry with the help of the state prosecutor," Stoltenberg told state radio. "I hope we don't export any more heavy water. There have been so many problems, so many question marks which have, quite simply, damaged our image and credibility abroad."

Leading parliamentarians had called Tuesday for an inquiry, following new charges that 15 tonnes of water sold to a West German firm was illegally re-routed to India and used to make atomic weapons.

Professor Gary Milhollin, a U.S. expert on the heavy water trade, told the West German news magazine Der Spiegel that a Duesseldorf-based firm bought the water from Norway and freighted it to India, where it was used to make atomic bombs.

Heavy water, also known as Deuterium oxide, can be a key

ingredient in the manufacture of atomic weapons but is also used in nuclear reactors and scientific research.

Norway has only just resolved a dispute with Israel over inspection rights to 20 tonnes of heavy water sold almost 30 years ago, and has also been embarrassed by allegations that a batch sent to Romania in 1986 was illegally resold.

Industrial giant Norsk Hydro A/S is the sole producer of the water in Norway, which became a leading exporter in the 1950s. Oslo has imposed strict conditions on its resale and use, and Hydro now produces only small amounts.

The allegations concerning India are particularly serious since international regulations forbid the shipment of more than one tonne of heavy water to the country.

India, which detonated its first atomic device in 1974 but has never admitted possessing nuclear weapons, has refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty aimed at halting the spread of such arms.

Dukakis, Jackson confer on vice presidency

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Dukakis met with Jesse Jackson Tuesday and discussed the Democratic vice presidential slot, but both refused to say whether Jackson asked for second billing on the ticket.

Jackson said they discussed the vice presidency "to some measure" during the 40-minute meeting. The black civil rights leader repeated his assertion that "our constituency deserves consideration."

Dukakis refused to give any

hint of what they discussed.

"We talk about lots of things when we talk," Dukakis said at a news conference following the session. "I don't talk about private conversations."

Dukakis repeated earlier statements that he has begun looking at vice presidential nominees but has made no decisions yet.

"The process has now begun. But it's open. There's no short list, or medium list or long list," Dukakis said.

Taiwan tourists happily but wearily flock to the mainland

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

WUXI, China — Thousands of people from Taiwan, barred from China for nearly 40 years, have been receiving red carpet treatment on the mainland since a travel ban was lifted last year.

But many remain wary of Peking's political motives in making them feel so welcome.

Official Chinese figures show 140,000 Taiwanese have applied to visit the mainland since November and more than 65,000 have made the trip. It was in November that the government in Taipei lifted the ban in force since 1949.

We enjoy the scenery and we get preferential treatment in buying air and rail tickets and booking hotels," said a retired businessman on a Taiwanese tour group.

"People are very warm to us. We have a common language, so we have a special feeling we do not have in other countries," he said.

"But behind this cordiality is a motive. China wants our money, our investment and, eventually, reunification. We must be careful."

The nationalist government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with the communists in which millions died. The two governments, which both claim to be the sole legal government of China, are technically still at war.

Thousands of families were separated, and many Taiwanese risked making the trip back to the mainland without official sanction, usually through Hong Kong.

Taiwan lifted its ban after pressure from veteran soldiers eager to visit their ancestral home before they died and with the confidence born of the island's economic prosperity.

Originally, permission was given to those who could show they had relatives on the mainland — but many of those coming now are native Taiwanese with no family ties.

Now, Taipei is planning to open its borders for the first time to a limited number of Chinese visitors under strict conditions, possibly only to attend funerals of family members in Taiwan.

In China, a saleswoman at the Jining, Nanking's most expensive hotel, said "The Taiwanese patriots spend like Japanese."

"They buy silk clothes, Chinese medicines, liquor and local specialties. We welcome them," she said.

Outside the hotel entrance, Nanking residents dressed in shabby blue and grey suits stopped on their bicycle to stare in amazement at the visitors from Taiwan sporting designer shirts, gold watches and laden with gifts.

China is pulling out all the stops for the visitors from Taiwan.

Banners proclaim "Welcome Taiwan compatriots" at airports. Special ticket counters have been set up at airports and stations and state shops offer them discounts.

At Wuxi railway station, a sign invites the Taiwan visitors to rest in a first class waiting room. The sign is written in traditional Chinese characters still used in Taiwan instead of the simplified system used on the mainland.

One woman in her 50s said she was returning to her ancestral home in Zhejiang to visit the grave of her father who died last year.

"I saw him in 1985 for the first time in 36 years. I recognised him at once. But he wanted proof. When I prayed at the ancestral home, then he believed I was his daughter," she said.

"I had in register with the local police but then we were left alone," she said.

A trader in his 30s said he was also going to his ancestral home in Zhejiang. "I was born in Taiwan, so I know none of these relatives. I have no feeling toward them. Only my parents do."

He said there was a political motive behind all the smiles.

"Direct trade will come in three to five years. But we must not rely on China too much. We must keep ourselves strong," he said.

For one man in his 70s, sporting a baseball cap, it was enough to be back in Nanking, where he studied in the 1930s.

"Then it was war," he said, standing in the lobby of a Nanking hotel, formerly a guest house reserved for top cadres and now a tourist hotel.

"Now it is peaceful. This is the first step. What will happen in the future I don't know. But here I am, in peace. That is an achievement," he said with a big smile.

Springsteens separate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rock star Bruce Springsteen and his wife, actress Julianne Phillips, have separated after three years of marriage, her publicist confirmed Friday. Yes, I'd rather not comment on it. You can say it's been confirmed," said Molly Madden, Phillips' spokeswoman.

She said neither Springsteen nor Phillips has filed for divorce. Springsteen, 38, the working-class kid who rose from the bar bands of Asbury Park, New Jersey, to become one of the world's most popular rock stars, is in Europe with his "Tunnel of Love" concert tour. Phillips, win is filming "Fletch II" with comedian Chevy Chase, Madden said.

The couple met backstage in Los Angeles during his "Born in the USA" concert tour in 1984.

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